

MINUTES

Health Information Technology and Transparency
Advisory Council and Ad Hoc Expert Meeting

Piedmont Hospital – Richard H. Rich Auditorium
December 13, 2006
1:00pm – 5:00pm

Members Present

Mike Adloo	Dr. John Angstadt	Jason Bearden
Jeffrey Broka	Dr. James Buehler	Marsha Burke
Robert Bush	Dedra Cantrell	Dr. Jack Chapman
Tod Citron	Chris Downing	Greg Fields
Judson Hill	R. Scott Leavell	Laura Linn
Dr. William McClatchey	Doug Moses	Amy Odom
Glenn Pearson	Dr. Winston Price	Dr. Louvenia Rainge
Gayle Ransom	Sonya Smith	Dennis White
Russell Williams	William Zimmermann	

Guests

Honorable Newt Gingrich, Former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives

Harold “Sonny” Munter, Chief Information Officer (CIO), Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., at the Piedmont Hospital / Rich Auditorium located at 1968 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia. A quorum of the Council was present.

The Minutes of the November 17, 2006 meeting were UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AND ADOPTED. Mr. Munter requested the Council and Ad Hoc Members to complete and return the Evaluation Forms.

Mr. Munter called upon the Ad Hoc Committee to introduce themselves and provide comment as to how they can provide support to the efforts of the HITT Advisory Council. In addition to explaining how they can provide support to the HITT Advisory Council some of the Ad Hoc Committee suggested the Council place focus on the following: dental, Information Technology (IT), Electronic Health Records (EHR), transparency (pricing and quality), Health Information Exchange (HIE), financial and federal government perspectives and inclusion of Georgia rural care communities in the Council’s mission.

Mr. Munter requested nominations and/or volunteers to serve as the HITT Advisory Council Chairperson. Mr. Russell Williams volunteered as Chairperson and Mr. Chris Downing volunteered to serve as Vice-Chairperson.

Mr. Munter requested the Council consider various “Orders of Business” in determining the following issues:

- Sub-Committee appointments possibly HIE to address issues such as EHR, and Transparency to focus on pricing and quality. An in-depth discussion of recommended topics to be considered by the subcommittees followed. Topics included review of legislative actions, how to propose funding, positive communications regarding privacy, security, legality for EHR. The Council deferred the subcommittee appointment until the Council has an opportunity to discuss its initiative.
- Quorum Definition - Council deferred this topic until further notice. Commissioner Medows suggested that this issue as well as other similar topics should be addressed in bylaws. Council members Robert Bush and Sonya Smith and the DCH General Counsel Charemon Grant volunteered to draft by-laws and will present at the next Council meeting, January 17, 2007.
- Mission Statement: Council to implement a “Mission Statement”. Sample mission statements from other States were provided to the Council and Ad Hoc Experts for review. Dee Cantrell read a draft version that could be adopted by the Georgia HITT Advisory Council. DCH will send the draft mission statement to all members for review and comment.
- Governor’s Executive Order: Chairperson Williams requested the Council review the Executive Order to understand the leadership role of the Council. He suggested that the members identify various groups within our state and country currently involved in HIE projects, determine which projects make sense and possibly adopt one as a pilot in the process. The following concerns and recommendations ensued while discussing “How to provide Leadership for a Coordinated Effort across the State to Achieve HIE”.
 - It was suggested that Commissioner Medows draft a letter to various statewide associations requesting what/how they regard their projects and the Council study the responses, particularly the barriers to HIE.
 - The Council should identify stakeholders.
 - Try to understand the “perceived” barriers in order to address them.

- The Chairperson will contact the Physicians Electronic Coalition. Consider physicians' and medical advisors' expertise in patient care in the Council's decision-making in addressing interoperability, safety, security and transparency barrier.
- Universal Infrastructure Accessibility - the need to be in-sync statewide to accommodate HIE (i.e., contact telecommunication companies to identify present status and plans for HIE mandates).
- Address statewide electronic medical records disparities, rural verses metro cultural concerns, and recommend strategic pilots for methods to move forward.

Dr. Medows introduced the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Former Speaker of the US House of Representatives and Founder of the Center for Health Transformation. Topic addressed "Saving Lives /Saving Money: Transforming Health and Healthcare in the 21st Century". A Question/Answer session followed.

Mr. Munter introduced Robert Rozier, Executive Director of Health Planning and Matt Jarrard, Statistical Unit Chief, DCH. Both speakers provided an overview from the Division of Health Planning. The primary function of the Division is awarding and organizing Certificates of Need (CON) to hospitals. They presented an overview of the data that is currently available from health care facilities in electronic format. A Question/Answer discussion ensued regarding the type of data desired by public/private organizations.

The Council agreed to convene on a monthly basis, every third Wednesday, effective January 17, 2007 from 9:00 a.m., until 4:00 p.m., at the Sloppy Floyd facility unless otherwise notified. The January 17th meeting will serve as a working session to define the Council's Objective (short/long-term) and appoint Sub-Committees. Future agenda items will include the following topics:

- Education of the General Assembly regarding the Council's Mission and funding requests
- Transparency website
- Privacy/Security and Op-In/Op-Out Capability for consumers
- Decision Support System
- Pending healthcare changes (i.e., NPI, ICD-10, etc.)
- TimeLine for meeting Council objectives
- Environmental Scan of Georgia's HIE
- Open Records / Ruth Carr
- Council Retreat

- Constituent Communications via DCH Web (i.e., projects, studies, etc.)
- Federated / Centralized Electronic Health Record Approach

There being no further business to be brought before the Health Information Technology and Transparency Advisory Council and Ad Hoc Expert Meeting at its December 13, 2006 session, Mr. Munter adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

THESE MINUTES ARE HEREBY APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS THE
_____ DAY OF _____, 2007.